

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02816 141140Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 INR-07 CIAE-00
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-----141200Z 061607 /46

R 140934Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2816

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EAID ECON LE
SUBJ: VISIT OF DR. FREDERICK BENT

REF: BEIRUT 2714

1. DR. FREDERICK BENT LEFT ON JUNE 11 FOR BAHRAIN AFTER WEEK OF MEETING WITH MOHAMMED ATALLAH AND OTHER MEMBERS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. HIS PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS OF BOARD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BOARD HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO FOCUS ON OVERALL RECONSTRUCTION STRATEGY. INSTEAD, IT HAS MERELY BEEN REACTING TO PROPOSALS OF OTHERS ON AD HOC BASIS. ATALLAH APPEARS TO BE DEVOTING TOO MUCH TIME TO DETAILS OF PROJECTS AND NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DEVELOPMENTAL PLANNING. BOARD CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE AS LONG AS THIS SITUATION CONTINUES.

B. ATALLAH HAS NOT YET HIRED ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR TECHNICAL STAFF, OR EVEN GIVEN SUSTAINED THOUGHT ABOUT HOW BOARD SHOULD BE ORGANIZED. HE HAS, HOWEVER, MENTIONED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT HE ENVISIONS FIVE TO SEVEN DIRECTORATES, WITH DIFFERENT DIRECTORATES BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUNCTIONS. (COMMENT: DR. BENT BELIEVES THAT AT LEAST AT PROJECT LEVEL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATED. END COMMENT.)

C. ATALLAH, ALTHOUGH A MAN OF GREAT INTELLIGENCE, HAS SO FAR NOT DEMONSTRATED ADMINISTRATIVE EFFECTIVENESS. HE IS RELUCTANT TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY AND HAS FAILED TO DEFINE CLEARLY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OTHER FULL-TIME MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

D. SOME FORM OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE BY PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER MAY BE NECESSARY TO FORCE BOARD TO ORGANIZE AND TO STAFF ITSELF EFFECTIVELY.

2. BOARD HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO RETAIN DR. BENT FOR LONGER PERIOD. HE WILL BE PREPARING FINAL REPORT ON THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS SHORTLY. WE WILL FORWARD IT TO WASHINGTON.

3. FOR BAHRAIN: DR. BENT, WHO HERE AS USG-FINANCED CONSULTANT, MAY ASK FOR HELP WITH TYPING OR POUCHING OF HIS REPORT. WE DOUBT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING FOR HIM IN FIRST REGARD, BUT ASK THAT YOU POUCH REPORT TO US IF SO REQUESTED.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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SAS ID: 2167996
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF DR. FREDERICK BENT
TAGS: EAID, ECON, OTRA, LE, US, (BENT, FREDERICK)
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Type: TE
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